

CLAIMS

1. Container (1) intended for transport/storage of radioactive materials, comprising a container body (2) and at least one handling device (8) assembled on said container body (2), each handling device (8) being provided with a main part (10) capable of cooperating with a gripping mechanism and projecting from the container body, and a base (12) fixed to the main part (10) and located in a base housing (30) delimited by a base housing wall (32) formed on the container body (2), the container also comprising firstly a plurality of attachment screws (38) for each handling device (8) distributed around the main part (10) and attaching the base (12) onto the container body (2), and secondly sealing means (48) inserted between the base (12) of the handling device and the container body (2), characterised in that the sealing means (48) for each handling device (8) comprise a sealing plate (50) located in a plate housing (52) delimited jointly by a plate housing wall (56, 256) provided on the base (12) of the handling device (8) and by a portion (58) of the base housing wall (32), said sealing plate (50) being installed removably in the plate housing (52) so as to surround the main part (10) of said handling device and to cover each attachment screw (38), said sealing means (48) also including an external seal (66) inserted between a peripheral wall (60) external to said sealing plate and the portion (58) of the base housing wall (32) partially delimiting the plate housing (52), and an internal seal (74, 274) inserted between a peripheral

wall (68, 268) internal to said sealing plate and the plate housing wall (56, 256).

2. Container (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that the external peripheral wall (60) of the sealing plate comprises an external edge (62) in contact with the external seal (66), and in that the internal peripheral wall (68, 268) of the sealing plate comprises an internal edge (70, 270) in contact with the internal seal (74, 274).

3. Container (1) according to claim 2, characterised in that the external edge (62) has an external groove (64) extending all along said external edge (62) and inside which the external seal (66) is located, and in that the internal edge (70, 270) has an internal groove (72, 272) extending all along said internal edge (70, 270) and inside which the internal seal (74, 274) is located.

4. Container (1) according to any one of the previous claims, characterised in that each handling device (8) is provided with a channels network (84, 284) for making a sealing test of the sealing means (48), the channels network (84, 284) communicating at least with an access orifice (86) provided in the main part (10) of the handling device (8) so as to open up on the outside of said main part (10), each access orifice (86) being closed off using a removable plug (88).

5. Container (1) according to claim 4, characterised in that for each handling device (8), the sealing plate (50) has an inside surface (83) partially delimiting a space (98) surrounding the main part (10)

of the handling device (8) and partly filled in by the heads (42) of the attachment screws (38), the channels network (84, 284) being arranged so as to enable communication between said space (98) and at least one
5 access orifice (86).

6. Container (1) according to any one of the previous claims, characterised in that the sealing plate (50) for each handling device (8) is in the shape of a ring and in that the external and internal seals
10 (66, 74, 274) are each in the shape of an annular seal.

7. Container (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the sealing plate (50) for each handling device (8), is in the shape of a frame, and in that each of the external and internal
15 seals is also in the shape of a frame.

8. Container (1) according to claim 6, characterised in that the sealing plate (50) for each handling device (8) is installed screwed in the plate housing (52).

20 9. Container (1) according to claim 2 and claim 8 jointly, characterised in that the internal edge (70) of the sealing plate (50) and the plate housing wall (56) provided on the base (12) of the handling device (8), each have a threaded portion
25 (76,78) cooperating with each other.

10. Container (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the sealing plate (50) for each handling device (8) is installed clipped in the plate housing (52).

30 11. Container (1) according to claim 3 and claim 10 jointly, characterised in that for each

handling device (8), the plate housing wall (256) provided on the base (12) of the handling device (8) comprises a shoulder (287), the internal seal (274) housed in the groove (272) of the internal edge (270) of the sealing plate bearing in contact with an inside surface (289) of said shoulder in order to maintain said sealing plate (50) in the plate housing (52), the internal seal (274) being compressed between the groove (272) of the internal edge (270) and a part (291) of the maximum diameter of the shoulder (287), to enable assembly/disassembly of said sealing plate (50).

12. Container (1) according to claim 5 and claim 11 jointly, characterised in that at least one access orifice (86) provided in the main part (10) of the handling device (8) is capable of holding pressurisation/vacuum creation means that can generate a pressure/vacuum inside the space (98) partially delimited by the inside surface (83) of the sealing plate (50) and surrounding the main part (10) of the handling device (8), through the channels network (284) in order to cause assembly/disassembly of the sealing plate (50).

13. Container (1) according to any one of the previous claims, characterised in that the sealing plate (50) for each handling device (8) is made of stainless steel.

14. Container (1) according to any one of the previous claims, characterised in that for each handling device (8), each of the external and internal seals (66,74,274) is made from an elastomer material.